



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
CANBERRA

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Reference No. 6.35

UNEMPLOYMENT, MAY 1975  
PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES

MAIN FEATURES

- In May 1975 the estimated number of unemployed persons, as defined in paragraph 3 below, was 228,700 (or 3.8 per cent of the estimated labour force) — a decrease of 44,500 since February. The figure includes persons who stated that they were actively looking for either full-time or part-time work during the survey week.
- There were 122,800 unemployed males (3.1 per cent of the male labour force) and 106,000 unemployed females (5.2 per cent of the female labour force).
- Of persons aged 15-19 years one in nine was unemployed (10.8 per cent). The unemployment rate for persons aged 20 years and over was 2.9 per cent.
- The seasonally adjusted figure was 255,600 persons (or 4.3 per cent of the estimated labour force), an increase of 32,600 over the figure for February 1975.
- The estimated number of persons who did no work but would have taken a job during the survey week and who had been actively looking for work at some time in the four weeks before the interview week was 249,700.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This statement contains preliminary unemployment estimates for Australia derived from the quarterly population survey. More detailed estimates are published each quarter in *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20) and *The Labour Force, Preliminary Statement* (Reference No. 6.32).

The population survey

2. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained in February, May, August and November from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. Interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that in each of the months to which the survey relates, there are four survey weeks, chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months.

Definition

3. For purposes of the survey, unemployed persons are defined as all civilians aged 15 years and over who, during the *whole of the week* prior to the interview week, did no work at all and either:

- did not have a job or business and were actively looking for work (including those who stated that they would have done so if they had not (i) been

temporarily ill, or (ii) believed no work was available, or (iii) already made definite arrangements to start in a new job in which they would have preferred to start during survey week) or

- had a job from which they were temporarily laid off without pay for the whole week.

4. Unemployed persons therefore comprise those looking for full-time work, those looking for part-time work and those temporarily laid off from either full-time or part-time jobs. This definition of unemployed persons conforms closely to that recommended by the Eighth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (1954).

Reliability of the estimates

5. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. There are about two chances in three that the differences would be less than 3,000 for total unemployed males, less than 3,000 for total unemployed females and less than 4,000 for total unemployed persons, and about nineteen chances in twenty that they would be less than twice these figures. Further details about the survey and the reliability of the estimates will be found in the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

Comparability with Commonwealth Employment Service figures

6. The sample estimates will differ from the number of persons registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (C.E.S.) as not employed, awaiting placement in full-time employment, for a number of reasons, including the following:

- the survey estimates include persons looking for part-time work as well as those looking for full-time work
- they exclude persons who did any work at all during the survey week, even though they may subsequently have become unemployed and registered with the C.E.S., or have done so little work as not to lose eligibility for unemployment benefit
- they represent averages over a period (see paragraph 2), whereas the numbers registered with the C.E.S. refer to a particular day at the end of the month
- they are subject to sampling variability (see paragraph 5)
- they include some unemployed persons (particularly females) who do not register with the C.E.S.
- they exclude any persons registered as unemployed who find jobs but do not notify the C.E.S. at once that they have done so.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in the table are due to rounding.

## UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a) : AUSTRALIA

Month	Looking for		Total	Age (years)		Per cent of labour force (b)					
				15-19		20 and over					
	Full-time work ('000)	Part-time work ('000)	Original ('000)	Seasonally adjusted (c)(d) ('000)	Looking for first job ('000)	Total ('000)	15-19 ('000)	20 and over ('000)	Total Original Seasonally adjusted (d)		
MALES											
1973 -											
February	61.9	6.0	67.9	58.6	9.0	23.1	44.8	6.4	1.3	1.8	1.5
May	45.1	5.6	50.7	55.8	*	14.5	36.2	4.2	1.0	1.3	1.5
August	35.6	5.4	41.0	49.8	*	12.0	29.1	3.5	0.8	1.1	1.3
November	48.1	6.2	54.3	48.9	14.6	26.7	27.6	7.6	0.8	1.4	1.3
1974 -											
February	51.3	5.3	56.7	48.4	7.2	18.7	37.9	5.1	1.1	1.5	1.3
May	41.0	4.3	45.3	49.9	*	10.3	35.0	2.9	1.0	1.2	1.3
August	56.6	4.5	61.1	72.7	*	15.2	45.9	4.5	1.3	1.6	1.9
November	99.3	12.3	111.6	107.0	16.9	42.6	69.0	11.9	1.9	2.9	2.7
1975 -											
February	138.1	6.9	144.9	123.3	13.3	41.5	103.5	11.1	2.9	3.7	3.1
May (e)	116.0	6.8	122.8	138.6	8.8	35.0	87.7	9.7	2.5	3.1	3.5
FEMALES											
1973 -											
February	50.3	25.4	75.6	60.0	9.7	24.4	51.3	7.4	3.2	4.0	3.2
May	33.1	16.3	49.5	54.0	*	16.3	33.2	5.2	2.1	2.6	2.8
August	24.9	15.7	40.6	49.5	4.2	13.2	27.5	4.3	1.7	2.1	2.6
November	33.7	17.6	51.3	49.7	15.2	24.7	26.6	7.7	1.6	2.6	2.6
1974 -											
February	42.1	21.5	63.7	50.4	8.7	23.2	40.5	7.0	2.4	3.2	2.5
May	30.8	19.2	50.0	56.4	5.7	18.0	31.9	5.5	1.9	2.5	2.8
August	37.6	17.0	54.6	66.7	5.7	18.3	36.4	6.0	2.2	2.8	3.3
November	68.6	21.0	89.6	92.1	16.3	40.4	49.2	12.3	2.8	4.3	4.5
1975 -											
February	94.9	33.3	128.3	101.7	18.9	52.5	75.7	15.1	4.4	6.2	5.0
May (e)	72.2	33.7	106.0	121.2	13.4	40.4	65.5	11.9	3.8	5.2	5.9
PERSONS											
1973 -											
February	112.2	31.4	143.5	118.3	18.7	47.5	96.1	6.9	1.9	2.5	2.1
May	78.3	21.9	100.2	107.6	7.0	30.8	69.4	4.7	1.4	1.8	1.9
August	60.5	21.1	81.6	101.6	7.8	25.1	56.5	3.9	1.1	1.4	1.8
November	81.8	23.8	105.6	99.1	29.8	51.4	54.2	7.7	1.1	1.8	1.7
1974 -											
February	93.5	26.9	120.4	98.4	15.8	41.9	78.4	6.0	1.5	2.0	1.7
May	71.8	23.5	95.3	104.9	8.3	28.3	67.0	4.1	1.3	1.6	1.8
August	94.2	21.5	115.7	143.0	9.2	33.4	82.3	5.2	1.6	2.0	2.4
November	167.9	33.3	201.2	200.4	33.2	83.0	118.1	12.1	2.2	3.4	3.4
1975 -											
February	233.0	40.2	273.2	223.0	32.2	94.0	179.2	13.0	3.4	4.6	3.7
May (e)	188.2	40.5	228.7	255.6	22.3	75.5	153.3	10.8	2.9	3.8	4.3

(a) Aged 15 years and over. For definition, see paragraph 3. (b) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group. (c) The method used in seasonally adjusting estimates for unemployed persons is to adjust estimates for unemployed persons aged 15 to 19 years looking for their first job and estimates for the remainder of unemployed persons separately and to add the two figures to obtain total estimates for unemployed persons. Estimates for unemployed males and females are treated similarly. (d) Revised following annual re-analysis of the series. (e) Preliminary estimates, subject to revision.

\* Estimates less than 4,000 are not published, because they would be subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr M. J. Griffiths on 63 9111 extension 2347 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.